



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

STRONG FIELD OF CANDIDATES TO CONTEST 2009 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

When nominations closed yesterday for the 17th October, 2009 local government elections at the Western Australian Electoral Commission's 71 client councils, 661 civic-minded citizens had put up their hand for the 373 vacancies across the State.

The numbers show there are 270 contested vacancies, 99 positions unopposed, and 4 vacancies unfilled.

Country councils that should see some of the closer contests include Busselton where 16 candidates have nominated for seven vacancies in the district; Broome district where there are 14 nominations for four councillor vacancies; Kalgoorlie-Boulder where 13 candidates are vying for six positions; and Coorow where eight nominations were received for the four vacancies in the district.

In the metropolitan area, six candidates are contesting the Mayoral vacancy at the City of Fremantle, City of Perth has eight nominees for its four vacancies, Gosnells district has 12 candidates for six vacancies, and Wanneroo Council's Central and South wards have six nominees apiece for the two vacancies in each ward.

Also of interest is that for the first time in 14 years Peppermint Grove will have a contested election with six nominations received for the four vacancies in the district – the last contested election being in 1995 when there were two vacancies and three candidates.

In nearby Cottesloe there is only one contested ward (Central), with the other five councillor vacancies being uncontested.

The close of nominations is the major step in the local government election process, identifying who will be standing for council and providing electors details of the candidates in their particular area.

The names of all nominating candidates can be seen at www.waec.wa.gov.au

Candidates' profiles are posted on the Notice Board at their respective local council offices and will also be included in the postal voting packages that the Electoral Commission will start to distribute in the week commencing Monday 21st September.

ENDS

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner. 11th September 2009

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